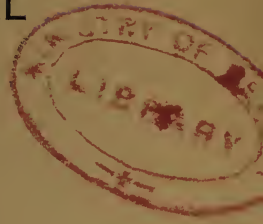


LIBRARY

HAILSHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1938

JUNE, 1939

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938.

The ordinary health work of the Department was rendered difficult throughout owing to the insistent calls on our time in connection with A.R.P.

This tended to increase as the year progressed and during the present year the speeding up of all A.R.P. work has seriously interfered with the preparation of this Report, which is therefore much later than usual.

The increased prevalence of Scarlet Fever which began in November 1937, continued during the year under review, when 49 cases of this disease were notified. The greatest number of cases occurred during the months of May and September, at Heathfield and Waldron during the former month, and at Polegate during the latter.

Five cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, none of which were fatal.

Important steps were taken to render the Diphtheria Immunization Scheme more effective.

During the month of December the Council sanctioned the payment of the Doctor's fee, and the scheme was somewhat modified by the substitution of 2 injections of A.P.T. for all children not over 12 years of age. In older children three injections of T.A.F. were authorized, and the fees were fixed at 2s. 6d. per injection, which is in accordance with the scale recommended by the British Medical Association at their Annual Representative Meeting in July, 1938.

A Post Schick Test was also offered in all cases, for which an appropriate fee is also to be paid by the Council.

All parents were circularized through the Schools, Welfare Clinics, Women's Institutes and Health Visitors, and although a most encouraging response was immediately forthcoming, the full effect of the Council's decision was not felt until after the close of the year, and detailed figures cannot therefore be given in this report.

The recommendations regarding water supplies contained in the Report on the Croydon Typhoid Enquiry have been carried out, and the four Water Companies which supply water in this District have since April furnished me with copies of all reports of analysis of their supplies.

With effect from 1st April, parts of the Parishes of East Dean, Friston, Jevington, Westham and Willingdon were incorporated in the Borough of Eastbourne.

The total area affected was 4,509 acres with an estimated population of 1,364.

The large wholesale and the smaller slaughterhouses at Langney ceased to be under our control from that date, and Mr. Warman has since been employed entirely on general duties. He has proved a welcome and much-needed reinforcement to our staff.

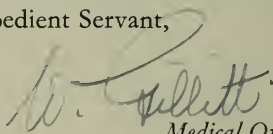
Except in the case of meat inspection, the transfer of a part of the District has had no appreciable effect in reducing the work of the Health Department.

I have to thank Mr. Chapman for his unremitting efforts to deal with the work of his Department in spite of the many other calls upon his time. It is chiefly owing to him and the loyal assistance he has received from his Assistants and the Clerical Staff that serious arrears in Health Work were avoided.

I am also indebted to him for the great help he has given me in compiling this Report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. S. Elliott'.

Medical Officer of Health.

Members of the Health Committee.

Lt.-Col. R. V. GWYNNE, D.S.O., D.L., J.P. (*Chairman*).

Mr. H. W. STONE, J.P. (*Vice-Chairman*).

Miss M. M. HAMPTON, J.P.

Miss C. B. LONG.

Mrs. M. H. OWEN, J.P.

Capt. C. F. GARDNER, J.P.

Rev. E. B. PIKE.

Mr. A. V. HART.

Mr. R. C. JONAS.

Mr. E. A. JONES.

Mr. L. W. LAWRENCE.

Mr. J. J. NEWNHAM.

Mr. F. J. NUTTER.

Mr. F. C. PINNIGER.

Mr. W. WINCHESTER.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health.

W. GILLITT M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Part time.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. E. J. J. CHAPMAN, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

Whole time.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

Mr. M. F. WARMAN, Cert. S.I.E.J.B., M.S.I.A.

Whole time.

Mr. L. E. SCOTT, Cert. S.I.E.J.B., M.S.I.A.

Whole time.

Clerks.

Miss M. TEATHER.

Whole time.

Miss L. G. CHAPMAN.

Whole time.

Comparative Statistics.

Area in Acres—	1937	1938
(a) from 1st January to 31st March, 1938	99,138	99,138
(b) from 1st April to 31st December, 1938	99,138	94,629
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1938	34,970	34,165
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1938	10,476	10,378
Rateable Value	£250,335	£248,427
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£986	£941

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES AND EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

Live Births.		Total	Males	Females
(a) Legitimate	.. ..	354	175	179
(b) Illegitimate	.. ..	10	4	6
Birth Rate per 1,000 Resident Population : 10.6.				
Stillbirths.		Total	Males	Females
(a) Legitimate	.. ..	9	6	3
(b) Illegitimate	.. ..	—	—	—
Rate per total Births (Live and Still) : 24.1.				

Total Deaths. 389.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population :

Crude, 11.3 ; Adjusted, 9.26.

			<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	
			<i>Deaths</i>	<i>total births</i>
			<i>(live and still)</i>	
Deaths from Puerperal causes.				
Puerperal sepsis	..	..	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	..	..	1	2.6
Total	..	..	1	2.6
Death rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births			..	49.4
Death rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000				
Legitimate live births	..	..	..	50.8
Death rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000				
Illegitimate live births	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	66	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	2	
Zymotic Death Rate	..	..	..	0.05

Social Conditions.

The character of the population is mainly agricultural and residential, and there is no important industry carried out in the area.

Unemployment Figures.

During the year a great improvement was noted in the absorption of unemployed by the Building Trades, which, however, showed a marked decrease in the critical months towards the end of the year.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and Pathological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory, Hellingly, except in the case of water samples, which are sent to Dr. S. Allinson Woodhead, the Public Analyst, Lewes.

Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of Infectious Disease are removed to the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital by means of an Ambulance belonging to the County Borough of Eastbourne.

For non-infectious and accident cases, two Ambulances are available, one at Hailsham, provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the other at Heathfield, under the control of the Heathfield and Waldron Ambulance Committee.

Nursing in the Home.

Twelve District Nursing Associations provide 16 Nurses for Midwifery and general nursing in the various Parshes in the Area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

- (1) Orthopaedic
- (2) Maternity and Child Welfare.
- (3) Ante-Natal.
- (4) Dental (M. C. W. and School)
- (5) Minor Ailments (for School and pre-School Children).

All of the above are held at the Church Room, Victoria Road, Hailsham.

Hospitals.

Tuberculosis	Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Roberts- bridge, provided by the County Council.
Infectious Diseases	Eastbourne Isolation Hospital.
Smallpox	Arrangement with the County Borough of Hastings.
Venereal Diseases	Treatment at Tunbridge Wells, Hastings and Brighton.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Except for the Western part of the District, where the sources of supply are from wells and springs, and in several parts remote from piped supplies, the District is well covered by one or other of the following Water Undertakers, whose sources of supplies have been periodically examined as to their chemical and bacteriological purity.

North	Heathfield and District Water Company, serving Heathfield, Waldron and a small part of Warbleton (North).
South	Eastbourne Waterworks Company, serving Pevensey, Westham, Willingdon, East Dean, Friston, Polegate, Alfriston and Wilmington.
East	Bexhill Water Company, serving Ninfield, Wartling (North) and Herstmonceux (Central).
Central	Hailsham Water Company, serving Hailsham, and part of Hellingly.

Copies of their Analyses are submitted to the Council, and all of them have been declared to be of satisfactory and wholesome quality.

No major extensions have occurred during the year in any part of the District, but the Companies have been able to equip and maintain their services to cope with the rapid housing development on old routes, without appreciable diminution in supplies.

The Hailsham Water Company have continued to draw from their latest bore at Adams Hole, completed in 1937. This source has yielded a supply beyond their expectations, and although this is a ferruginous water, it has been possible to maintain by precipitation a supply of high bacterial and chemical quality, unaffected to any serious degree by the diminution of rainfall throughout the year.

Rainfall.

It will be noted from the following table that there was a considerable drop in the rainfall for the year, which varied strangely in different parts of the district.

	Heathfield	Pevensey	Pevensey Bay	Polegate	Willington
1936	31.32	27.55	29.61	30.31	31.81
1937	38.80	35.13	36.99	39.62	39.74
1938	32.53	26.75	27.47	30.73	30.30

Other Sources.

A satisfactory feature of the work of the Health Department consists in the increasing references made to the Office by prospective house-owners or builders, when information, based on geological data and hundreds of records and analyses, is furnished, enabling the sinking of bores or wells in substrata with reasonable prospects of success, in areas where pipe supplies are unobtainable. This work is extended to the protective treatment and deepening of existing wells, in connection with which formal and informal analyses are made, the results of which are given below.

The Service is greatly appreciated, and as soon as the cause of an indifferent water has been determined, it is seldom that a remedy prescribed does not succeed.

The following samples were submitted and reports received.

	Formal	Informal
No. of wells analysed	69	145
No. found to be wholesome	38	5
No. found to be unsatisfactory	31	140

Drainage and Sewerage.

The continued building development at Polegate necessitated considerable expenditure on account of extensions and enlargements to sewers.

These have enabled many existing premises to be redrained, have kept pace with the building requirements, and include ;

Replacement of 12 in. by 18 in. main from Station to Polly Arch, costing £1,504.

Replacement of 12 in. by 24 in. main from Polly Arch to Outfall Works, costing £1,037.

Extension of 6 in. Sewer to Wannock. £900.

The actual work, preparation and supervision to completion of the latter was carried out by the Council under contract, the cost of which was met by the building developers.

Negotiations are proceeding in connection with works set forth below, and are likely to mature in the order of arrangement.

Heathfield, Broad Oak, Street End Lane.—Drainage and Sewage Disposal Works.

Herstmonceux, Victoria Road, Windmill Hill.—Drainage and Disposal Works.

Willington and Polegate.—Joint Extension of Disposal Works.

Westham and Pevensey.—Improvement of Pumping Plant.

Alfriston.—Redrainage and Sewage Disposal Works.

Non-Sewered Areas.

As certain parts of Waldron and Heathfield are incapable of being sewered, a cesspool cleansing service is carried out under contract, and provides for quarterly attention, except where otherwise requested, when charges are made for services in excess of four times a year.

The question of providing a Sewer for Waldron Village has been considered, but has been deferred on account of expense, whilst the scheme for redraining a part of Broad Oak is in progress.

These projected works would relieve the respective parishes of considerable cost in cesspool emptying, but would not obviate the necessity of carrying on the service in other parts of the parish.

The following comparisons show the increasing costs of cesspool cleansing :

					Waldron	Heathfield
1936	..	..	..	..	£458	£113
1937	..	..	..	..	£564	£130
1938	..	..	..	..	£638	£143

Rivers and Streams.

The inspection of Watercourses where they are likely to become fouled by drainage from farms, cesspools or sewage disposal works has been the subject of constant attention by the Health Department.

In this many owners were remiss, namely, those who entertain the idea that an effluent from a septic tank is necessarily innocuous, and can be turned into any watercourse with impunity.

Since these septic tanks were merely sealed cesspools, with overflows passing into almost worse-than-useless filter tracks, a very septic effluent resulted.

As a result of inspection, many such drainage systems have been overhauled, and notices issued for the abatement of any conditions found prejudicial to health or the purity of the watercourse adjoining.

Closet Accommodation.

Although no wholesale conversion from conservancy to the water carriage system has been followed, a systematic effort has been made to attain this wherever facilities were available, and much progress can be reported, particularly in the supply of water to water-closets which were formerly hand-flushed.

It is also gratifying to record that the old insanitary arrangement usually described as a Privy is rapidly disappearing from even the remote parts, although they are still found in limited numbers, whilst the satisfactory numbers of conversions from Earth or Pail Closets to Water Closets has affected wholesome changes in housing conditions.

Removal of Night Soil.

Although there is a sewer at Alfriston, it is incapable of dealing with faecal matter, as its outfall is direct into the Cuckmere, and before being brought into use, it will require to be relaid or reconstructed in parts.

The question of redrainage to obviate nuisance, pollution, and the heavy cost in removal of night soil, which it must be emphasized again is an insanitary and expensive method, has been discussed and deferred, and notwithstanding my recommendations as to the urgency of the matter, I regret to note that there is no immediate prospect of improvement.

I should be remiss if I failed again to recommend the Council to press on with this long overdue improvement.

The river pollution arising in consequence of the perpetuation of the present system, by its example seriously hampers progress in this and other parts, and is a matter which should accordingly be rectified at the earliest practicable date.

Public Cleansing.

The Council have operated three Schemes situated in the Northern, Central and Southern parts of the District which serve the nine Parishes given below.

These services have continued to increase in cost owing to expansion in the Areas, but have functioned economically notwithstanding, and fulfil a real need.

<i>Parishes served.</i>	<i>Service.</i>
1. Alfriston, Pevensey, Westham, Willingdon.	Weekly.
2. Heathfield, Waldron, East Hoathly.	Fortnightly.
3. Hailsham	Weekly.
Herstmonceux	Fortnightly.

Their introduction has resulted in a marked diminution in the refuse deposits in hedgerows, highway verges, ponds and open spaces, but it is regrettable to note that these abuses are still prevalent in other areas where it has not been possible yet to arrange for a Cleansing Service.

As far as practicable, and where soil is obtainable, controlled tipping is adopted, otherwise the refuse is incinerated ; a tipman is now employed at Nos. 1 and 3 schemes.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The work of sanitary inspection has been systematically and thoroughly done, and wherever nuisances or contraventions have occurred, informal action has usually resulted in correction of the conditions.

In a comparatively few cases only was it necessary to serve Statutory Notices, since if Informal Notices are not complied with, the Officers invariably establish contact with the owners before making recommendations to the Council, as a result of which the latter almost invariably avail themselves of the advice and service which is at all times at their disposal.

This contact is invaluable, and although it frequently places extra duties on the Staff by way of preparation of sketches, estimates and informal tests, I am satisfied that such a procedure is worthwhile, and ensures a measure of progress not otherwise procurable.

It is gratifying to record noticeable improvement in the standard of sanitation in connection with premises, food producing and preparing establishments, farmyards, factories, and temporary dwellings, details of which are included in the subjoined Tabular Statement under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Shops and Offices.

Although no systematic inspection has been possible, action has been taken in cases where shops or offices were found to be deficient in lighting, heating, ventilation or sanitary accommodation, records of which are included elsewhere in this report. It has not been necessary to resort to Statutory proceedings in any case.

Camping Sites.

Careful attention was given to the supervision of sites used for camping purposes, whether subject to the issue of Licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, or not.

The following details will serve to show that the Council was able to handle this matter more effectually as a result of the coming into operation of the above-mentioned Act.

Certain cases which could not be dealt with by reason of period of occupation, were dealt with under the Tents, Vans and Sheds Byelaws, and no special difficulty has arisen in controlling such sites.

1. The number of sites in the area which were used for camping sites was 50.
2. The number of camping sites in respect of which licences were issued by the Council was 33.
3. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area during the Summer Season (August) was 1,100.

Smoke Abatement.

Several complaints of nuisance from Factory chimneys were investigated at Hailsham, and the Management approached as to steps for the mitigation of the nuisance under certain atmospheric conditions.

As a result of improved methods adopted, no recurrence has been reported.

Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools.

A privately-owned bathing pool within the curtilage of a Country Club House at Herstmonceux continues to attract patronage. The water is subjected to continuous chlorination treatment under the Bell process, which effectually removes suspended matters, destroys harmful organisms and returns the water to the pool in a clean and wholesome state.

At mid-season the water, which was originally drawn from the Bexhill Water Company's Main, and at other times as occasion may require, is replenished from the same source.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Cases in which the assistance of the Council was sought or action taken by them in regard to infested houses were few, and no difficulty has been experienced in dealing with them successfully.

The number of Council houses found to be infested : Nil.

Disinfested : Nil.

The number of other houses found to be infested : 3

Disinfested : 3.

After the usual preliminaries in connection with exposing the concealed homes of the parasite, the following insecticides have been successfully employed : Zaldecide, Lawvercide.

Since no cases have occurred involving Council houses, the necessity for special precautions has not arisen, but arrangements are made for clothing or furniture known to be infested to be disinfested before removal to new quarters.

The Officers of the Council personally carry out the disinfection in all cases.

Advice and information are given to all occupiers whose premises or belongings have been treated, as to the precise action they should take, and in certain cases insecticides are left with them, although they are recommended to report any reappearance.

SCHOOLS.

Attention was given to the sanitary condition of Schools throughout the year, and several improvements were effected.

The Hailsham Infants School was closed from 21st February to 3rd March, to allow a sanitary defect (the escape of sewer gas) to be remedied. One class in the Infants School at Polegate was closed for a week in September owing to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever among its members.

The following Schools were closed during the year for the periods and causes stated.

<i>School</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Cause</i>
Ninfield C. of E.	28th Feb.—11th March	Measles
Herstmonceux C. of E.	7th—11th March	Influenza
Hailsham Jnr.	23rd March—1st April	Influenza
Hailsham Infants	30th March—8th April	Influenza
Hailsham Senior	31st March—8th April	Influenza
East Hoathly C. of E.	12th—25th April	Measles
Cross-in-Hand C. of E.	9th—20th May	Scarlet Fever
East Hoathly C. of E.	26th April—6th May	Measles
Alfriston Council	25th May—13th June	Measles
Maynards Green Council	30th May—13th June	Measles
Hooe C. of E.	9th—17th June	Mumps
Hooe C. of E.	21st—24th June	Mumps

Exclusion of individual children immediately they are suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease appears to be more effective in preventing spread than closure of a School after an epidemic has developed.

HOUSING.

The inspections carried out throughout the District, of which details are given in the summary below, have been confined to those dwellings whose dampness and disrepair through age and neglect have called for premier attention.

This class of property is, for the most part, scattered in rural parishes, and is unprovided with proper water supplies, drainage, or satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

Notwithstanding the defects, some of these cottages have much charm by reason of their antiquity, their setting, or peculiar composite character, which it has not only been possible to retain, but also at the same time to recondition and render the cottages habitable.

In some cases improvement has been carried out with the aid of a grant under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, but in the majority of cases, the owners were not prepared to be restricted in their course of action, as required in the case of a grant.

Overcrowding.

The marked improvement in trade, with its attendant prosperity during 1937/38 was reflected in the number of changes in occupation of working-class dwellings, resulting in numbers of cases being abated.

In view of these changes, however, it would be safe to say that the details and information of the original survey are unreliable to-day, and could only serve as a broad basis on which to estimate present overcrowding.

Since the cases outstanding in December 1937 were mainly overcrowding by $\frac{1}{2}$ adult, and these conditions were for the most part remedied by removals, marriages, and similar causes, at the end of 1938 the housing or overcrowding position does not present a problem.

HOUSING (OVERCROWDING) STATISTICS.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	23
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	23
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	140
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	7
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	53
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	1
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK, shewing the action taken under the provisions of the Housing Act 1936, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, or matters arising therefrom.

1.	Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	260
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	490
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	104
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	356
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found defective :	
	(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
	(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	94
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	87
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	
	(a) By Owners	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority	—
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	71
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :	
	(a) By Owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :	
(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation	10

(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from Owners, Section 11 (3) :	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation ..	7
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation ..	5
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
4.	Number of New Houses erected during the year 1938 :—	
(1)	State aided :	
(a)	By Local Authority	—
(b)	By Public Utility Societies, etc.	—
(2)	Without State aid	311
	Total ..	311
5.	Housing Conditions :—	
(1)	Total number of houses in the district ..	10,378
(2)	Estimated number of working-class houses (included in above)	6,796
(3)	General observations as to housing conditions and shortage of new houses.	
	There is no shortage of middle class houses in the District, in fact there are many vacant houses in the urban parts To LET or FOR SALE.	
	Many working class house-holders, however, being obliged to live near their work, are compelled to pay rents beyond their means, and would readily occupy lower rented houses more remote from their work if such were obtainable, and in this connection there is an undoubted need for small dwellings at low rentals.	
(4)	Particulars of any scheme adopted, or action taken, by the Local Authority relating to the clearance or improvement of unhealthy areas.	
	Although no scheme has been formulated relating to unhealthy areas, of which there are none which could be correctly so described, sustained action has been	

taken to recondition individual unfit houses, and this it has been possible to do with and without the aid of Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

- (5) Have the Council any proposals for the erection of new houses ? No
- (6) Any special activity in house building, and where ?
 During the early part of the year building activity continued in the erection of middle class dwellings, but ceased suddenly just before the September Crisis, and had not been resumed by the end of the year.
 This was marked at Polegate, Willingdon, Heathfield and Westham, and to a less degree in general throughout the district.
- (7) Van dwellings and similar structures :
 (a) Is this class of dwelling shewing signs of increase ?
 No ; the control of these structures has been strengthened by the Public Health Act, 1936.
 (b) Are any special powers or byelaws available for dealing with van dwellings ? Yes
 (c) Has any trouble been experienced in controlling this type of dwelling ? No
- (8) Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 :
 Mr. E. J. J. Chapman, Chief Sanitary Inspector.
 Messrs. M. F. Warman and L. E. Scott, Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.
 Cortlandt, Hailsham, Sussex.

ANALYSIS OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS MADE DURING 1938.

Defects.

Dampness : (a) Rising	..	..	..	..	73
(b) Penetrating	..	..	..	..	54
Plaster of walls	..	..	..	..	43
Plaster of ceilings	..	..	..	..	58
Insufficient ventilation by windows	..	..	..	..	43
Insufficient light	..	..	..	..	31
Windows (including sashcords)	..	..	..	..	69
Doors, defective or non-weatherproof	..	..	..	..	66
Floors (brick or wooden)	..	..	..	..	74
Insanitary or defective sinks and/or waste pipes	..	..	..	..	50
Absence of sinks	..	..	..	..	17
Unserviceable kitcheners, firegrates, etc.	..	..	..	..	45
Absence of firegrates	..	..	..	..	2
Coppers absent or in disrepair	..	..	..	..	36

Defective wash-houses	4
Stairways defective	16
Absence of handrails	29
Absence of foodstores	19
Insufficient, defective or obstructed gutters	62
Roof coverings	60
Defective or insecure walls	62
Chimney Defects	32
Defective closet accommodation	79
Insanitary privies	14
Unsatisfactory drainage	55
Defective or insufficient yard paving	57
Unsatisfactory water supplies	68

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The supervision of milk supplies in this District, which it should be noted is one of the largest milk producing districts in the County, has received special and sustained attention throughout the year. Samples are taken systematically for Chemical, Bacteriological and Sediment tests, and advice and assistance offered to correct deficiencies or to improve the conditions under which milking or stalling are carried out.

Much time has also been devoted to improvements required to qualify for Accredited Milk production, and to securing of wholesome water supplies, and the services of the department were made available to any who wished to determine the quality of the milk of individual cows suspected of being below standard.

This service, for which a small charge is made, is appreciated by producers.

The results of 213 Qualitative and 214 Bacteriological Examinations of Milk Samples are set out below :—

CHEMICAL OR QUALITATIVE EXAMINATION OF 213 MILK SAMPLES.

<i>Samples</i>	<i>Butter Fats</i>	<i>Remarks as to Quality</i>
11 ..	3.0% and under ..	Unsatisfactory.
14 ..	3.0%—3.4%) ..	Fair.
42 ..	3.5%—3.9%)	
77 ..	4.0%—4.4%) ..	Good.
48 ..	4.5%—4.9%)	
21 ..	5.0% and over ..	Very Good.

199 samples were tested for solids not fat, and 18 of these proved unsatisfactory, namely :

7 at 8.4%
 8 at 8.3%
 1 at 8.2%
 1 at 7.9%
 1 at 6.5%

BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS OF 214 MILK SAMPLES.

<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>			<i>B. Coli Test</i>		
<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Present in</i> <i>1 tube</i>	<i>Present in</i> <i>2 tubes</i>	<i>Present in</i> <i>3 tubes</i>
133	79	108	24	11	69

Two samples of Pasteurized Milk tested showed a satisfactory Bacterial Count, and proved to be efficiently Pasteurized.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The results of inspections of Slaughterhouses, food-shops and places where food is prepared, sold or stored, are given in summary form below, from which it will be seen that practically the whole of the home-killed meat is examined before it reaches the consumer.

A special feature of the work is that a detailed record of the reasons for condemning food as unfit for consumption is kept in all cases where food is found to be unsound.

No system of meat marking has been adopted.

Below are set out details of inspections made, the meat withheld as unfit for human food, and the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected.

Total number of visits paid in connection with slaughterhouses,
 meat shops, etc. 2,177

Total number of animals inspected 11,500

Types of carcasses inspected as follows :—

Bulls	..	..	..	..	..	34
Bullocks	..	..	..	..	..	103
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	689
Heifers	..	..	..	..	..	480
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	1,834
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	2,973
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	5,337
Goats	..	..	..	..	..	50

Diseased Meat Condemned.

Estimated
Weight in lbs.

(a)	By reason of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	48,102
(b)	By reason of other Diseases or Conditions	..	..	..	13,604

Details of Diseased Meat Condemned.

(a) *Tuberculosis.*

Cows	..	..	50 carcasses and offal	..	23,710
Heifers	..	..	2 " "	..	1,100
Bullocks	..	..	2 " "	..	900
Bulls	..	..	1 " "	..	750
Calves	..	..	4 " "	..	750
Pigs	..	..	7 " "	..	710
Sows	..	..	1 " "	..	250
Miscellaneous	..		916 portions and organs	..	19,932
Total					48,102

(b) *Other Diseases or Conditions.*

Dropsy	..	..	8 carcasses of Cows	3,500	
			1 " Boar	200	
			18 " Sheep	535	
					4,235
Emaciation	..		6 " Cows	2,450	
			36 " Sheep	940	
			3 " Goats	55	
					3,445
Fever	..	..	2 " Calves	105	
			3 " Sheep	55	
					160
Moribund	..		2 " Sheep	78	
			1 " Pig	100	
					178
Unwholesome and unsound		1	" Pig	20	
Septicaemia	..	1	" Pig	100	
Pyelo-Nephritis	..	1	" Bull	500	
Septic Metritis	..	2	" Cows	1,000	
Immaturity	..	4	" Calves	116	
Pyæmia	..	1	" Pig	115	
Bruising	..	1	" Cow	650	
Unwholesome	..	6	" Sheep	200	
		1	" Pig	20	
					220
Coccidiosis	..	1	" Rabbit	3	
Miscellaneous	..		542 portions or organs		6,862
Total					17,604

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS (SLAUGHTERHOUSES) ORDER, 1924, AND PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924.

On January 1st there were 24 slaughterhouses in use in the district, of which 14 were registered, and 10 licensed. There is only one knacker's yard in the Area.

The extension of the Eastbourne Borough Boundary resulted in removal of 1 licensed and 4 registered slaughterhouses from the district. One new licence was granted, making twenty slaughterhouses in use at the end of December, 1938.

Informal action resulted in improvements both in structure and equipment of a number of slaughterhouses, more especially the registered premises.

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings against any butcher during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There were 102 Licensed slaughtermen, including a number of new licenses issued during the year.

Informal action has been taken where necessary for minor contraventions under this Act.

Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders.

This Area was not so affected by Restriction Orders due to outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease as in 1937, only a small portion of the district having been affected for a short period.

Several cases of suspected Anthrax were notified during the year, but were not confirmed.

Regardless of any notification of suspected cases of contagious disease, a constant watch was kept in the slaughterhouses, and close co-operation maintained with the appropriate authorities.

General Remarks.

It will be noted that the number of animals slaughtered during 1938 is considerably below that of previous years. This is due to the transfer of two wholesale establishments to Eastbourne.

Meat withheld from consumption is disinfected, rendered unmarketable, or buried. In certain approved cases, rejected food is released on condition that it is sent to Waste Products Works, subject to a guarantee and acceptance as to its destination.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings against butchers, and where action has been taken in regard to minor misdemeanors, notices have usually been promptly complied with.

ADULTERATION ; CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

No action has been taken in regard to the submission of Food for Analysis by the Public Analyst, as the District Council do not function as the Food and Drugs Authority.

NUTRITION.

Lectures and addresses to Women's Institutes, Co-operative Societies and Sisterhoods have been given throughout the year, and a tour by the Cinematograph Film Van was made to a number of Schools, showing the necessity of cleanliness in regard to food, and evoking great interest amongst the scholars.

SHELL FISH.

The Hailsham Rural District Council have only a few miles of coastline where, except to a limited extent at Pevensey, no shellfish are obtainable.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The work of exterminating Rats and Mice, particularly the former, has been actively pursued, and as in previous years, although a special effort was made in Rat Week to direct public attention to the subject, the activities of the Department have been continuous.

It is clear from the numerous applications for advice and assistance received, that the rat menace is still with us, but it is gratifying to record the increased interest of the public, possibly stimulated by the publicity given on posters exhibited throughout the District.

The practice of issuing free poison during Rat Week was continued and taken full advantage of, whilst in addition, the apparatus for gassing has been loaned on several occasions, or used by the Staff, when in most cases satisfactory results were obtained.

Particular attention has been given to sewage farms and refuse tips belonging to the Council, and to several private installations, as a result of which only occasional traces of rats can be found in these situations.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are few factories operating in the District, and those so described were such only in virtue of the machinery installed, according to the definition under the old Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. This has been extended under new legislation (The Factories Act, 1937, which came into force on 1st July, 1938) to apply to premises where manual labour is employed in making, altering, repairing, ornamenting, finishing, cleaning, washing or adapting for sale of any article, irrespective of the equipment operating for such processes.

The new legislation, it should be noted, consolidates a large number of Statutes, and incorporates and extends provisions formerly included in the Public Health Acts and the Factory Acts to safeguard the health and welfare of the operatives.

The new and extended obligations have been the object of much attention, particularly in regard to the examination of premises as to the means of escape in case of fire (Section 25) and the provision of wholesome water supplies (Section 41) detailed elsewhere in this Report.

I append table in prescribed form required by the Secretary of State, giving records of Inspections by the Sanitary Inspectors.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power ..	12	5
Factories without mechanical power ..	38	14
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises). ..	15	9
Total ..	65	28

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	9	9
Overcrowding (S. 2)	2	2
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ..	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ..	3	2
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	3	2
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)		
Insufficient	4	4
Unsuitable or defective	6	4
Not separate for sexes	1	1
Total ..	28	24

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year, 49 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, compared with 40 cases in the previous year. As was the case during the previous year, the type of infection was unusually severe, and complications were common.

The greatest incidence, as expected, occurred in the 5 to 10 year group, but there was an unusual number of adult cases, no less than 16% of the cases occurring in persons over 20 years of age.

During the previous year it was 6%, and I can only suggest that the increased strain and anxiety of life to-day has the effect of lowering resistance to infection.

The parts of the District chiefly affected were Heathfield and Waldron during the month of May, when the focus seemed to be one class in the Cross-in-Hand School.

One of the Teachers who suffered from recurrent sore throat was suspected, but several throat swabs showed no streptococcal infection.

During September there was a sharp outbreak at Polegate, affecting chiefly one class in the Infants' School : this soon subsided when the infected cases and contacts had been isolated.

In all cases of Diphtheria anti-toxin was used as soon as the disease was suspected.

Two cases of Measles were sent to the Isolation Hospital for treatment on account of severe complications or difficulty in nursing the cases at home. The steps taken to provide artificial immunization against Diphtheria are outlined at the beginning of this report.

No local action has been taken in regard to the use of Measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

No action was taken by this Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in connection with the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Cases of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.			Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	4	—	1	1	25	8	2	6	2	—	—	49
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	4	4	5	5	21
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Undulant Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

Cases Admitted to Hospital and Total Deaths

DISEASE.				TOTAL NOTIFIED.	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	49	49	—
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	21	1	—
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	5	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	6	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	2	—	—
Infantile Paralysis ... ..	...	...	...	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	2	—	—
Undulant Fever ... ..	...	...	...	1	—	—

Number of Cases removed to the Isolation Hospital in each Month

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
Scarlet Fever	...	—	4	3	—	16	2	2	3	10	7	2	—
Diphtheria	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis—New Cases, 1938

AGE PERIODS	New Case				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	—	2	4	3	—	—	—	1
15 to 25 years	2	4	2	—	1	3	—	—
25 to 35 years	11	2	—	1	2	1	—	—
35 to 45 years	1	5	1	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 55 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	15	15	8	6	7	6	—	1

Water Analysis Results, 1938

	No. of Samples		Results of Analysis			No. of sources corrected or alternative supplies provided
	Chem-ical	Bacter-ial	Satis-factory	Polluted	In-different	
Alfriston ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Arlington ...	7	—	3	3	1	2
Berwick ...	5	—	1	2	2	1
Chalvington	3	—	1	2	—	1
Chiddingly ...	3	1	1	3	—	1
East Hoathly	6	—	3	3	—	1
Hailsham ...	1	—	—	1	—	1
Heathfield ...	5	—	2	3	—	2
Hellingly ...	10	—	5	3	2	5
Hooe ...	4	—	3	1	—	1
Laughton ...	7	—	2	5	—	3
Ninfield ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Ripe ...	2	—	1	1	—	—
Selmeston ...	4	—	—	3	1	1
Waldron ...	1	—	—	—	1	1
Warbleton ...	6	—	3	1	2	2
TOTAL ...	68	1	29	31	9	22

GENERAL SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND FOOD ANALYSES.

Public Health Nuisances	155
Public Health Nuisances Reinspections	223
Housing Acts	107
Housing Acts Reinspections	608
Complaints	212
Public Cleansing	673
Drains Examined	495
Closet Accommodation :—	
Privies and Earth Closets	2
Water Closets	14
Milk and Dairies	391
Sediment Tests	169
Chemical Samples	213
Bacteriological Samples	214
Slaughterhouses	1,252
Meat Shops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	925
Offensive Trades	7
Knacker's Yards	73
Bakehouses	4
Water Supply	608
Water Samples : Formal	69
Informal	145
	<hr/>
	214
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	232
Factories and Workshops, etc.	65
Infectious Diseases	126
Rooms Disinfected	119
Rats and Mice Destruction	26
Verminous Premises dealt with	3
Schools	12
Pollution of Watercourses	45
Markets	41
Miscellaneous	430

